GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4609
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2014
WORKERS IN PLANTATION INDUSTRY
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the revenues earned and the number of workers employed by the spice cultivation particularly cardamom plantation industry. State-wise;

(b)whether the Government has conducted/sponsored any study to assess the socio-economic conditions of workers in the spice cultivation;

(c)if so, the details thereof; and

(d)the steps taken by the Government for the welfare of workers working in the said cultivation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL, MINES, LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Plantations Division), which is the Nodal Ministry for the Plantation Industry, the revenue earned from export of Cardamom (small & large) during the last three years is as under:

Year	Cardamom (Small) (Rs. in Crs)	Cardamom (Large) (Rs. in Crs)
2011-12	363.22	68.30
2012-13	212.15	62.65
2013-14	283.80	79.61

An estimated total number of 1,84,960 workers are employed in cardamom plantations. The state wise details are given below:

Cardamom Small:

State	No. of workers
Kerala	70065
Kamataka	44088
Tamil Nadu	9082
Total	123235

Cardamom Large:

State	No. of workers
Sikkim	53885
West Bengal	7840
Total	61725

(b) & (c): As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Plantations Division), the Spices Board has not conducted any specific Study to assess the socio-economic conditions of workers in the spices cultivation.

(d): The Piantation Labour Act, 1951 provides for regulation of the conditions of work and welfare measures for workers in the Plantations sector, including the Cardamom plantations. The implementation of the Welfare measures in the Act, however, vests with the State Governments.

The Spices Board under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry provides additional support under the Scheme component `Human Resource Development & Capital Expenditure for Works` for the welfare of the cardamom plantation workers and their children is detailed as unden-

(i) Educational stipend ranging from Rs.400 to Rs. 1500/- per annum to children of cardamom plantation workers and staff employed in cardamom estates whose income do not exceed Rs.3000/-per month per parent.

(ii) Grant-in aid to educational Institutions in which the children of the cardamom plantation workers are studying and medical

institutions situated in cardamom growing areas for procurement of furniture, laboratory equipment, library books, drinking water facilities, toilets, installation of bio-gas plants in schools and clinical equipment in hospitals.